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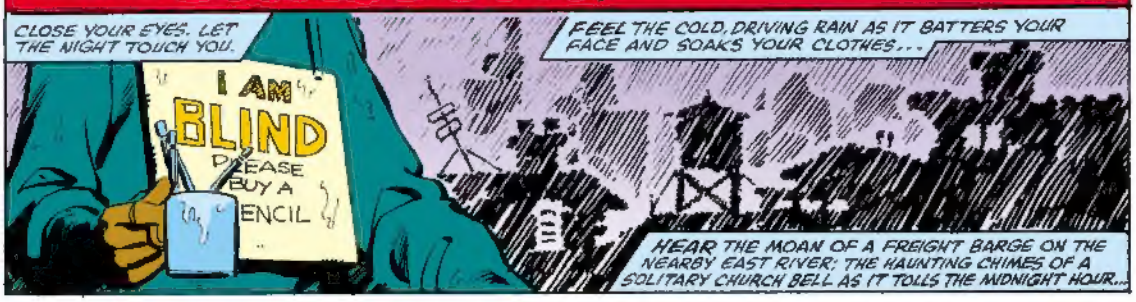
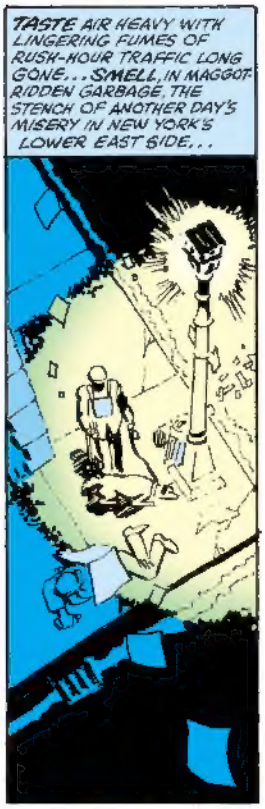
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
ELECKTRA
ONCE HE LOVED HER...
NOW SHE IS HIS
MOST DEADLY ENEMY!
TM

He dwells in eternal night—but the blackness is filled with sounds and scents other men cannot perceive. Though attorney MATT MURDOCK is *blind*, his other senses function with *superhuman sharpness*—his *radar sense* guides him over every obstacle! He stalks the streets by night, a red-garbed foe of evil!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

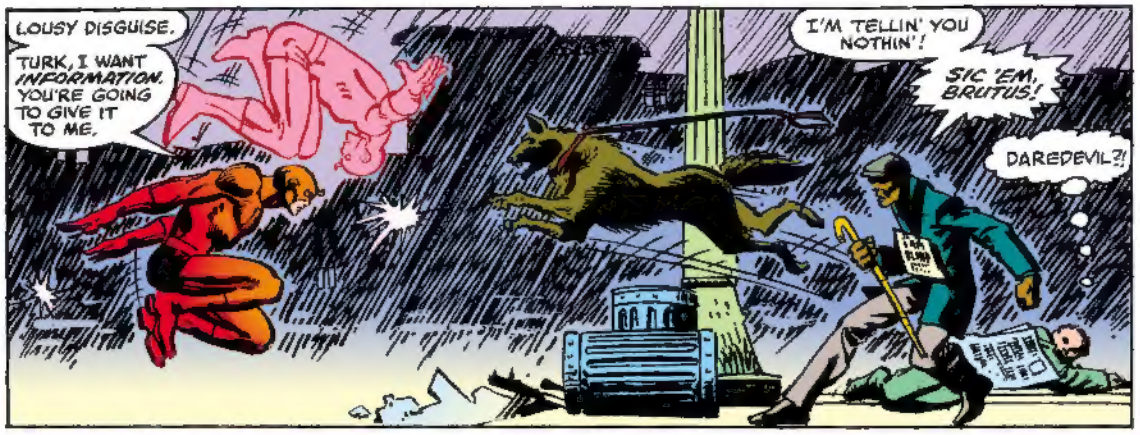

CLOSE YOUR EYES. LET THE NIGHT TOUCH YOU.
I AM BLIND PLEASE BUY A PENCIL
FEEL THE COLD, DRIVING RAIN AS IT BATTERS YOUR FACE AND SOAKS YOUR CLOTHES...
HEAR THE MOAN OF A FREIGHT BARGE ON THE NEARBY EAST RIVER; THE HAUNTING CHIMES OF A SOLITARY CHURCH BELL AS IT TOLLS THE MIDNIGHT HOUR...

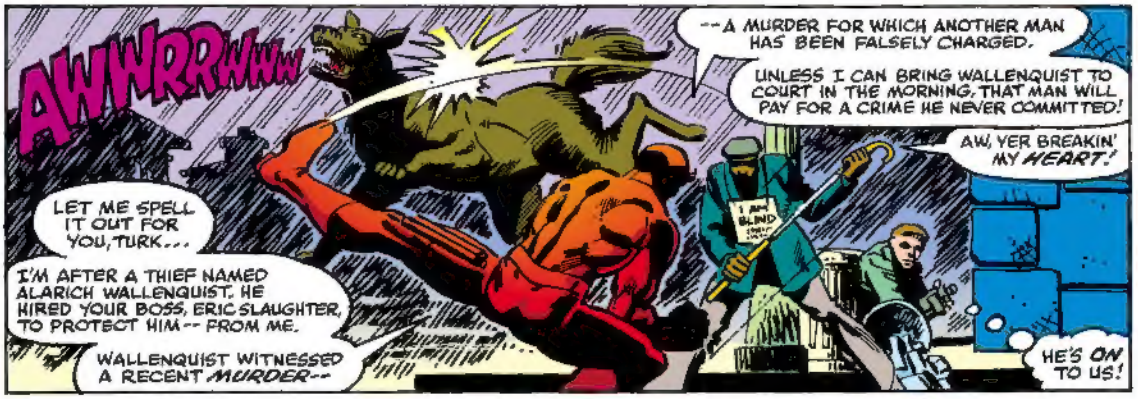

TASTE AIR HEAVY WITH LINGERING FUMES OF RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC LONG GONE... SMELL, IN MAGGOT-RIDDEN GARBAGE, THE STENCH OF ANOTHER DAY'S MISERY IN NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE...

...AND TONIGHT, DAREDEVIL WILL MEET--AND BE TOUCHED BY--

ELEKTRA

FRANK MILLER / ARTIST AND WRITER | KLAUS JANSON / INKER / EMBELLISHER | DR. MARTIN / COLORIST | JOE ROSEN / LETTERER | DENNY O'NEIL / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / ED-IN-CHIEF

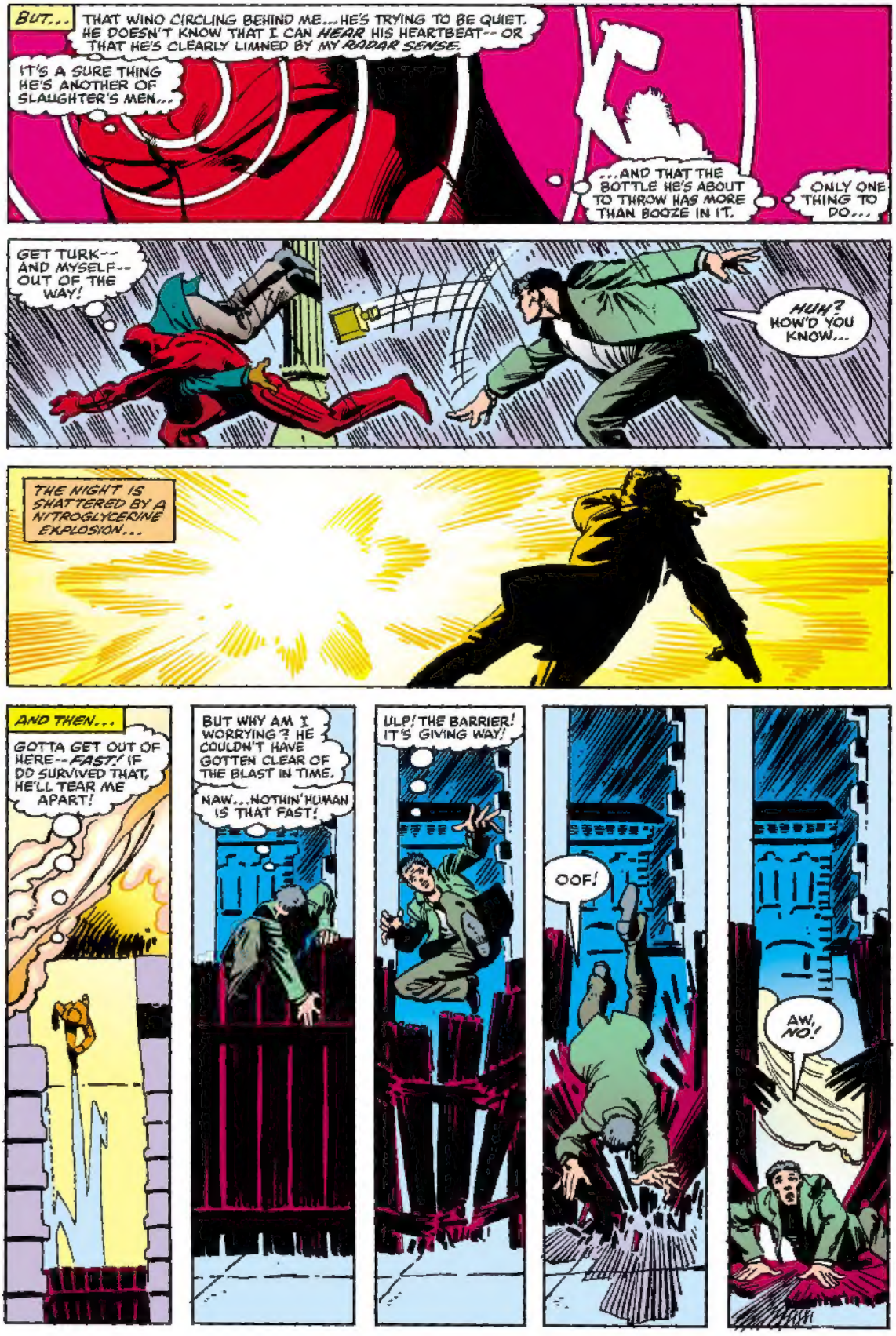

LOUSY DISGUISE.
TURK, I WANT INFORMATION. YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO ME.
I'M TELLIN' YOU NOTHIN'!
SIC 'EM, BRUTUS!
DAREDEVIL?!

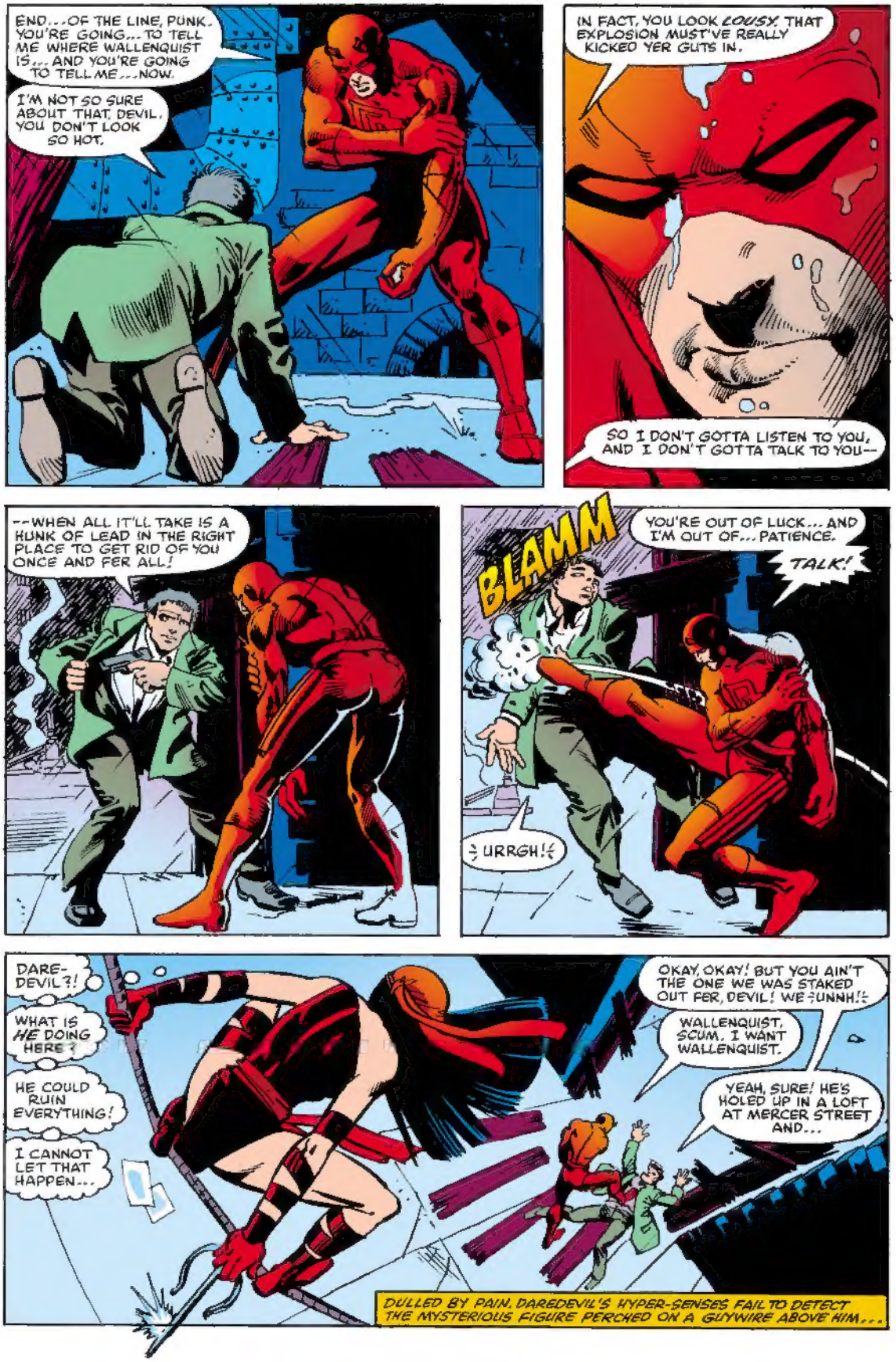

AWWRRWHW
--A MURDER FOR WHICH ANOTHER MAN HAS BEEN FALSELY CHARGED.
UNLESS I CAN BRING WALLENQUIST TO COURT IN THE MORNING, THAT MAN WILL PAY FOR A CRIME HE NEVER COMMITTED!
AW, YER BREAKIN' MY HEART!
LET ME SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU, TURK...
I'M AFTER A THIEF NAMED ALARICH WALLENQUIST. HE HIRED YOUR BOSS, ERIC SLAUGHTER, TO PROTECT HIM-- FROM ME.
WALLENQUIST WITNESSED A RECENT MURDER--
HE'S ON TO US!

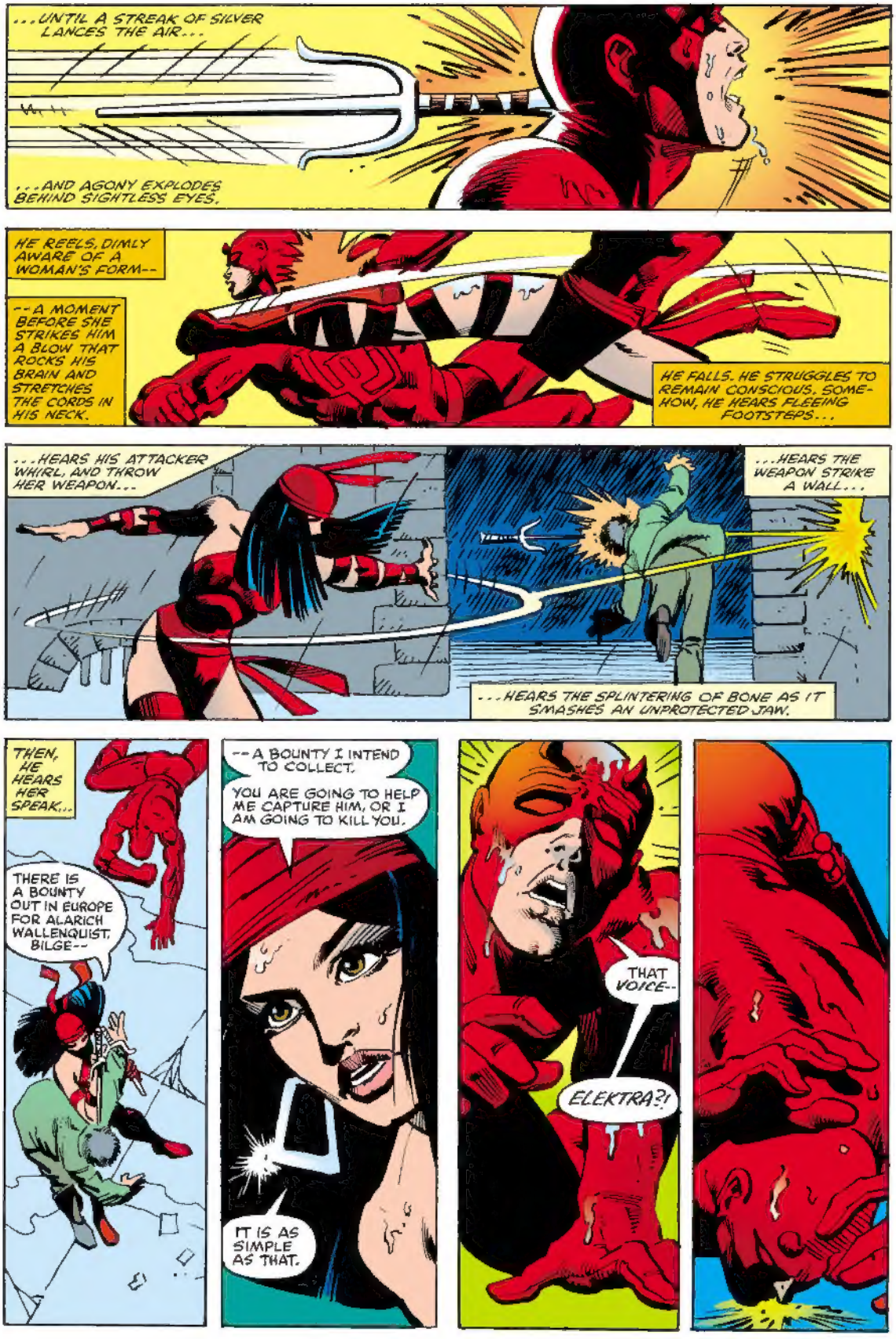
I BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS CHANCE, DEVIL.
MISTER SLAUGHTER'S GIVEN ME NOTHIN' BUT LOUSY STAKEOUT JOBS LIKE THIS EVER SINCE YOU MADE A FOOL OUTTA ME ON CONEY ISLAND.* BUT NOW I'LL--
WH-WHERE'D YOU GO?
*DD #161.- DENNY.

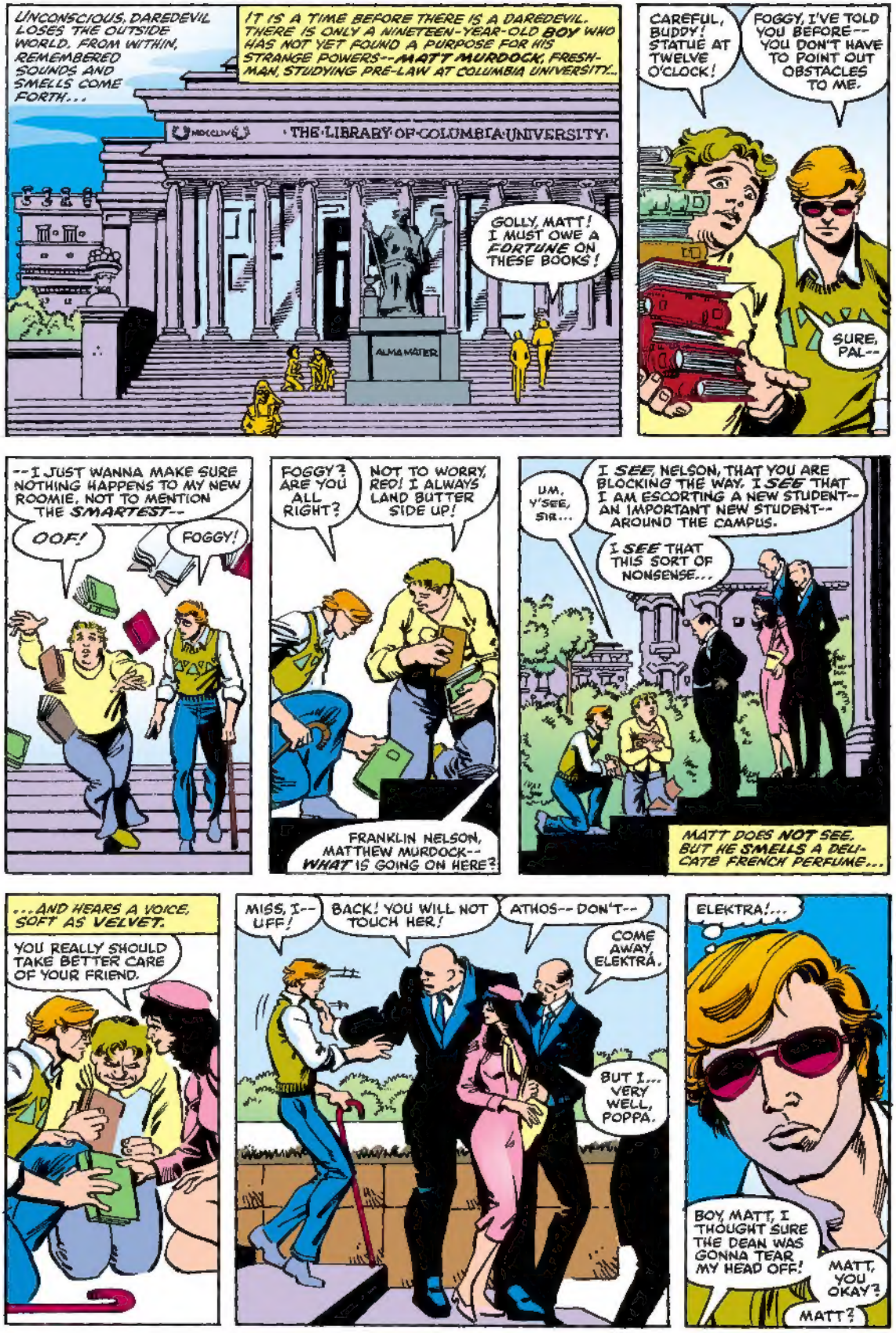
WOKK

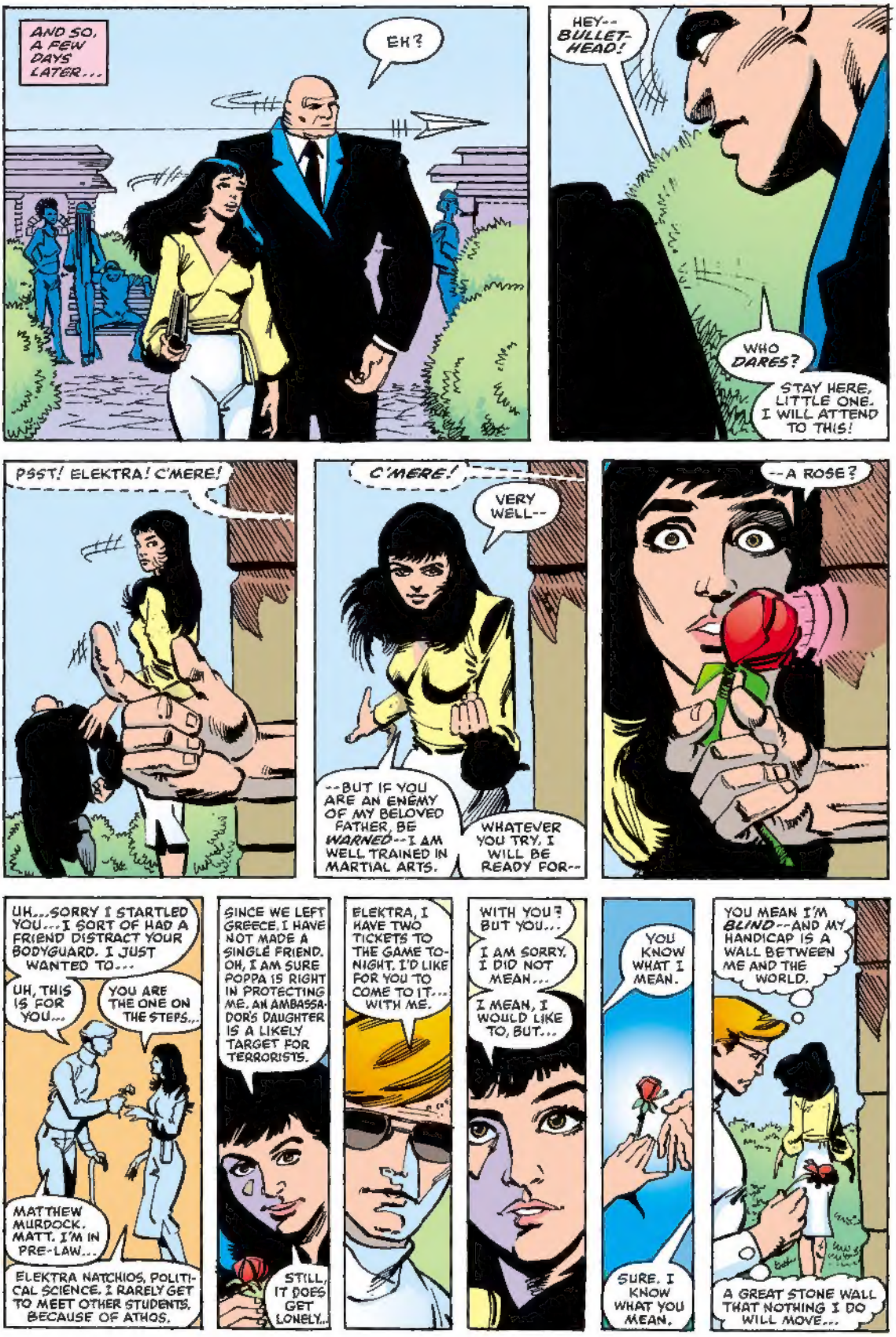
THIS STINKS!
SLAUGHTER TOLD ME I'M S'POSED TO MAKE SURE TURK'S KEPT QUIET IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA SING...
GUESS THAT SINKS IT...
I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK!

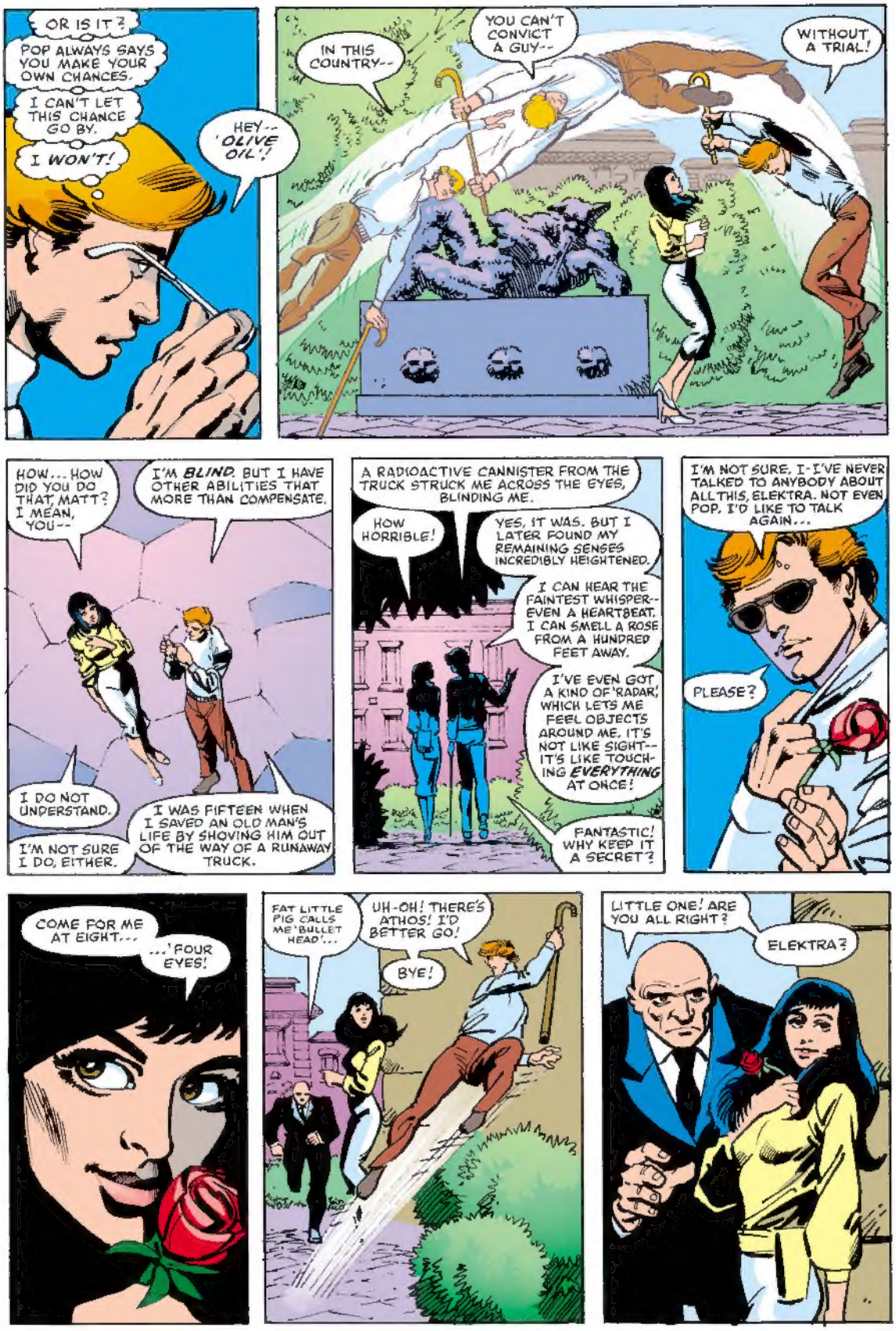

BUT...
THAT WINO CIRCLING BEHIND ME...HE'S TRYING TO BE QUIET. HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT I CAN HEAR HIS HEARTBEAT--OR THAT HE'S CLEARLY LIMNED BY MY RADAR SENSE.
IT'S A SURE THING HE'S ANOTHER OF SLAUGHTER'S MEN...
...AND THAT THE BOTTLE HE'S ABOUT TO THROW HAS MORE THAN BOOZE IN IT.
ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
GET TURK--AND MYSELF--OUT OF THE WAY!
HUH? HOW'D YOU KNOW...
THE NIGHT IS SHATTERED BY A NITROGLYCERINE EXPLOSION...
AND THEN...
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE--FAST! IF DD SURVIVED THAT, HE'LL TEAR ME APART!
BUT WHY AM I WORRYING? HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN CLEAR OF THE BLAST IN TIME.
NAW...NOTHIN' HUMAN IS THAT FAST!
ULP! THE BARRIER! IT'S GIVING WAY!
OOF!
AW, NO!

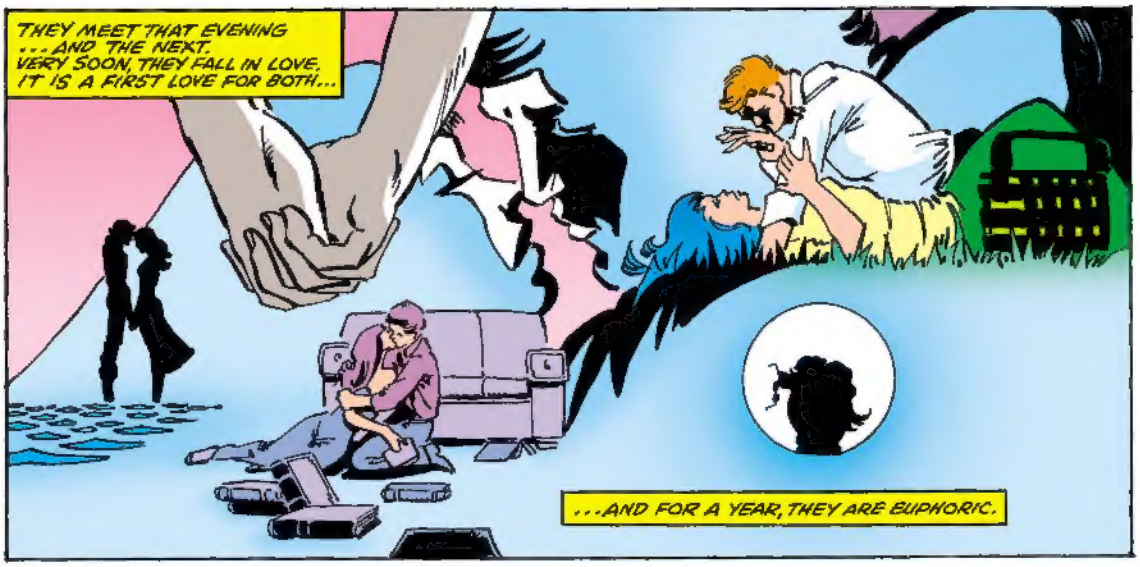

END...OF THE LINE, PUNK. YOU'RE GOING... TO TELL ME WHERE WALLENQUIST IS... AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME...NOW.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, DEVIL. YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT.
IN FACT, YOU LOOK LOUSY. THAT EXPLOSION MUST'VE REALLY KICKED YER GUTS IN.
SO I DON'T GOTTA LISTEN TO YOU, AND I DON'T GOTTA TALK TO YOU--
--WHEN ALL IT'LL TAKE IS A HUNK OF LEAD IN THE RIGHT PLACE TO GET RID OF YOU ONCE AND FER ALL!
BLAMM
YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK... AND I'M OUT OF... PATIENCE.
TALK!
URRGH!
DARE-DEVIL?!
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?
HE COULD RUIN EVERYTHING!
I CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN...
OKAY, OKAY! BUT YOU AIN'T THE ONE WE WAS STAKED OUT FER, DEVIL! WE UNNH!
WALLENQUIST. SCUM. I WANT WALLENQUIST.
YEAH, SURE! HE'S HOLED UP IN A LOFT AT MERCER STREET AND...
DULLED BY PAIN, DAREDEVIL'S HYPER-SENSES FAIL TO DETECT THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE PERCHED ON A GUYWIRE ABOVE HIM...

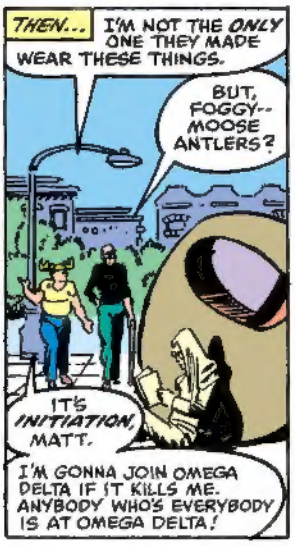

...UNTIL A STREAK OF SILVER LANCES THE AIR...
...AND AGONY EXPLODES BEHIND SIGHTLESS EYES.
HE REELS, DIMLY AWARE OF A WOMAN'S FORM--
--A MOMENT BEFORE SHE STRIKES HIM A BLOW THAT ROCKS HIS BRAIN AND STRETCHES THE CORDS IN HIS NECK.
HE FALLS. HE STRUGGLES TO REMAIN CONSCIOUS. SOMEHOW, HE HEARS FLEEING FOOTSTEPS...
...HEARS HIS ATTACKER WHIRL AND THROW HER WEAPON...
...HEARS THE WEAPON STRIKE A WALL...
...HEARS THE SPLINTERING OF BONE AS IT SMASHES AN UNPROTECTED JAW.
THEN, HE HEARS HER SPEAK...
THERE IS A BOUNTY OUT IN EUROPE FOR ALARICH WALLENQUIST, BILGE--
--A BOUNTY I INTEND TO COLLECT.
YOU ARE GOING TO HELP ME CAPTURE HIM, OR I AM GOING TO KILL YOU.
IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
THAT VOICE--
ELEKTRA?!

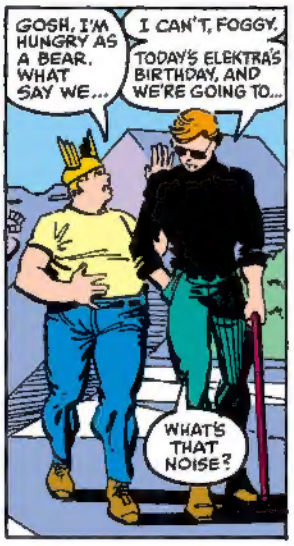

UNCONSCIOUS, DAREDEVIL LOSES THE OUTSIDE WORLD. FROM WITHIN, REMEMBERED SOUNDS AND SMELLS COME FORTH...
IT IS A TIME BEFORE THERE IS A DAREDEVIL. THERE IS ONLY A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO HAS NOT YET FOUND A PURPOSE FOR HIS STRANGE POWERS--MATT MURDOCK, FRESHMAN, STUDYING PRE-LAW AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY...
THE LIBRARY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
ALMA MATER
GOLLY, MATT! I MUST OWE A FORTUNE ON THESE BOOKS!
CAREFUL, BUDDY! STATUE AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!
FOGGY, I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO POINT OUT OBSTACLES TO ME.
SURE, PAL--
--I JUST WANNA MAKE SURE NOTHING HAPPENS TO MY NEW ROOMIE, NOT TO MENTION THE SMARTEST--
OOF!
FOGGY!
FOGGY? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOT TO WORRY, RED! I ALWAYS LAND BUTTER SIDE UP!
FRANKLIN NELSON, MATTHEW MURDOCK-- WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
UM, Y'SEE, SIR...
I SEE, NELSON, THAT YOU ARE BLOCKING THE WAY. I SEE THAT I AM ESCORTING A NEW STUDENT-- AN IMPORTANT NEW STUDENT-- AROUND THE CAMPUS.
I SEE THAT THIS SORT OF NONSENSE...
MATT DOES NOT SEE. BUT HE SMELLS A DELICATE FRENCH PERFUME...
...AND HEARS A VOICE, SOFT AS VELVET.
YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR FRIEND.
MISS, I-- UFF!
BACK! YOU WILL NOT TOUCH HER!
ATHOS-- DON'T--
COME AWAY, ELEKTRA.
BUT I... VERY WELL, POPPA.
ELEKTRA!...
BOY, MATT, I THOUGHT SURE THE DEAN WAS GONNA TEAR MY HEAD OFF!
MATT, YOU OKAY?
MATT?


AND SO, A FEW DAYS LATER...
EH?
HEY-- BULLET-HEAD!
WHO DARES?
STAY HERE, LITTLE ONE. I WILL ATTEND TO THIS!
PSST! ELEKTRA! C'MERE!
C'MERE!
VERY WELL--
--BUT IF YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF MY BELOVED FATHER, BE WARNED--I AM WELL TRAINED IN MARTIAL ARTS.
WHATEVER YOU TRY, I WILL BE READY FOR--
--A ROSE?
UH...SORRY I STARTLED YOU...I SORT OF HAD A FRIEND DISTRACT YOUR BODYGUARD. I JUST WANTED TO...
UH, THIS IS FOR YOU...
YOU ARE THE ONE ON THE STEPS...
MATTHEW MURDOCK. MATT. I'M IN PRE-LAW...
ELEKTRA NATCHIOS, POLITICAL SCIENCE. I RARELY GET TO MEET OTHER STUDENTS, BECAUSE OF ATHOS.
SINCE WE LEFT GREECE, I HAVE NOT MADE A SINGLE FRIEND. OH, I AM SURE POPPA IS RIGHT IN PROTECTING ME. AN AMBASSADOR'S DAUGHTER IS A LIKELY TARGET FOR TERRORISTS.
STILL, IT DOES GET LONELY...
ELEKTRA, I HAVE TWO TICKETS TO THE GAME TONIGHT. I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO COME TO IT... WITH ME.
WITH YOU? BUT YOU...
I AM SORRY. I DID NOT MEAN...
I MEAN, I WOULD LIKE TO, BUT...
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
SURE. I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
YOU MEAN I'M BLIND--AND MY HANDICAP IS A WALL BETWEEN ME AND THE WORLD.
A GREAT STONE WALL THAT NOTHING I DO WILL MOVE...


OR IS IT?
POP ALWAYS SAYS YOU MAKE YOUR OWN CHANCES.
I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE GO BY.
I WON'T!
HEY-- 'OLIVE OIL'!
IN THIS COUNTRY--
YOU CAN'T CONVICT A GUY--
WITHOUT A TRIAL!
HOW... HOW DID YOU DO THAT, MATT? I MEAN, YOU--
I'M BLIND. BUT I HAVE OTHER ABILITIES THAT MORE THAN COMPENSATE.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
I'M NOT SURE I DO, EITHER.
I WAS FIFTEEN WHEN I SAVED AN OLD MAN'S LIFE BY SHOVING HIM OUT OF THE WAY OF A RUNAWAY TRUCK.
A RADIOACTIVE CANNISTER FROM THE TRUCK STRUCK ME ACROSS THE EYES, BLINDING ME.
HOW HORRIBLE!
YES, IT WAS. BUT I LATER FOUND MY REMAINING SENSES INCREDIBLY HEIGHTENED.
I CAN HEAR THE FAINTEST WHISPER-- EVEN A HEARTBEAT. I CAN SMELL A ROSE FROM A HUNDRED FEET AWAY.
I'VE EVEN GOT A KIND OF 'RADAR,' WHICH LETS ME FEEL OBJECTS AROUND ME. IT'S NOT LIKE SIGHT-- IT'S LIKE TOUCHING EVERYTHING AT ONCE!
FANTASTIC! WHY KEEP IT A SECRET?
I'M NOT SURE. I- I'VE NEVER TALKED TO ANYBODY ABOUT ALL THIS, ELEKTRA. NOT EVEN POP. I'D LIKE TO TALK AGAIN...
PLEASE?
COME FOR ME AT EIGHT...
...'FOUR EYES!
FAT LITTLE PIG CALLS ME 'BULLET HEAD'...
UH-OH! THERE'S ATHOS! I'D BETTER GO!
BYE!
LITTLE ONE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ELEKTRA?


THEY MEET THAT EVENING ...AND THE NEXT. VERY SOON, THEY FALL IN LOVE. IT IS A FIRST LOVE FOR BOTH...
...AND FOR A YEAR, THEY ARE EUPHORIC.


THEN...
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE THEY MADE WEAR THESE THINGS.
BUT, FOGGY-- MOOSE ANTLERS?
IT'S INITIATION, MATT.
I'M GONNA JOIN OMEGA DELTA IF IT KILLS ME. ANYBODY WHO'S EVERYBODY IS AT OMEGA DELTA!

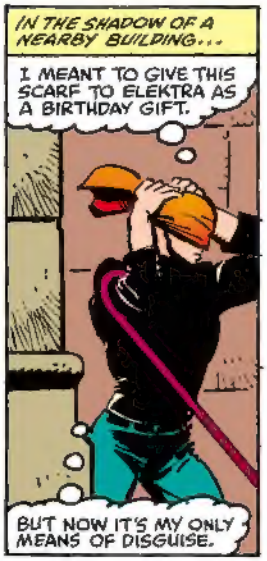

GOSH, I'M HUNGRY AS A BEAR. WHAT SAY WE...
I CAN'T, FOGGY. TODAY'S ELEKTRA'S BIRTHDAY, AND WE'RE GOING TO...
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

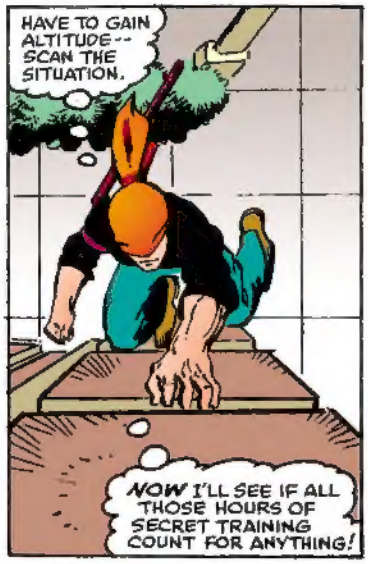
WHAT NO!-- OH, GOLLY! LOOK AT ALL THOSE COPS. WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG HERE.
YOU COULD CUT THE TENSION IN THE AIR.

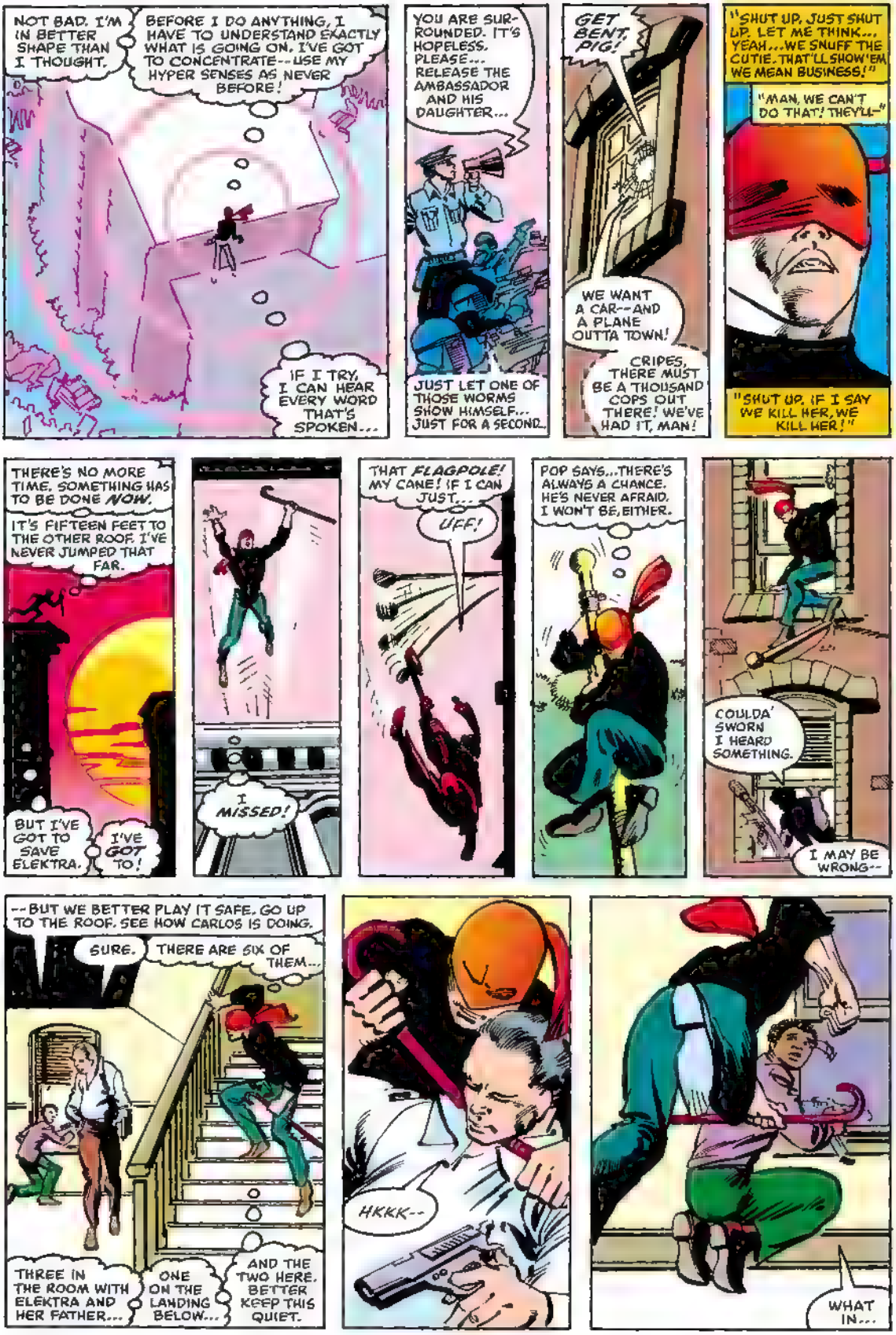
LIKE, THERE'S THIS RILLY INTENSE SCENE IN THERE, Y'KNOW? THERE'S THESE GUYS HOLDING HOSTAGES, LIKE IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. INTENSE. RILLY INTENSE.
HEY-- I LIKE THE ANTLERS.
THANKS!

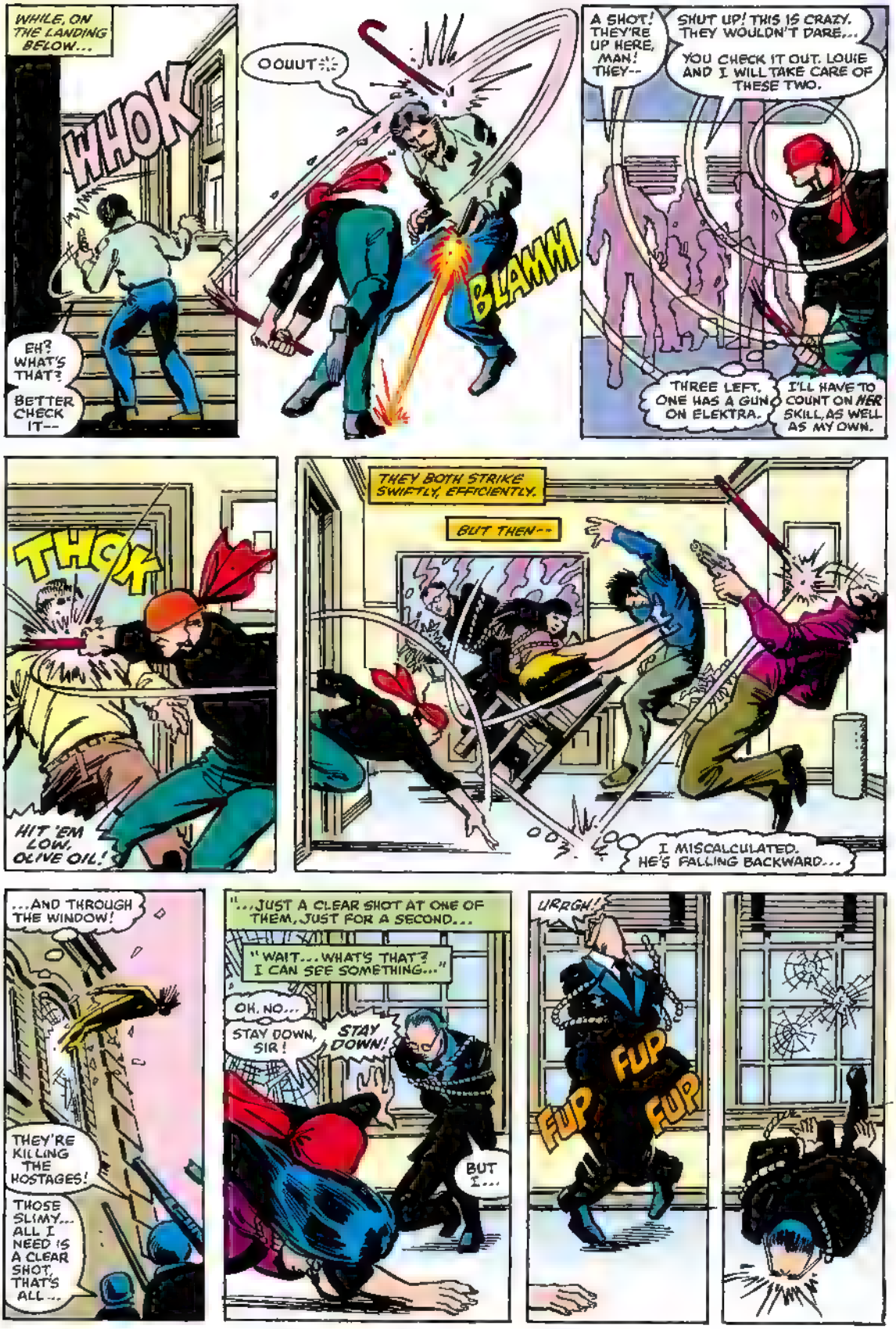
HOLD ON A SECOND... THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING? ISN'T THAT WHERE YOU'RE MEETING ELEKTRA, MATT?

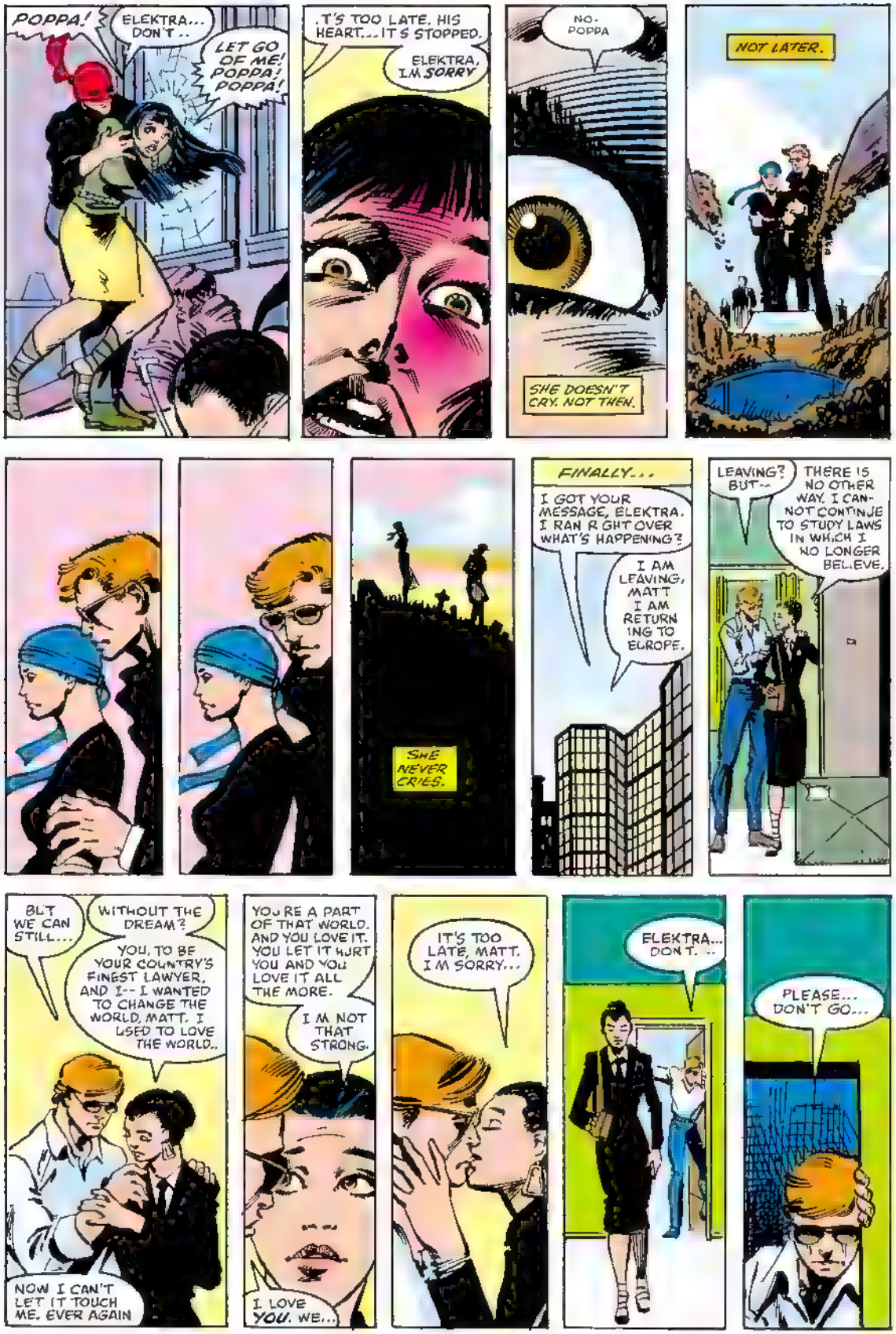
MATT?
HE'S GONE!

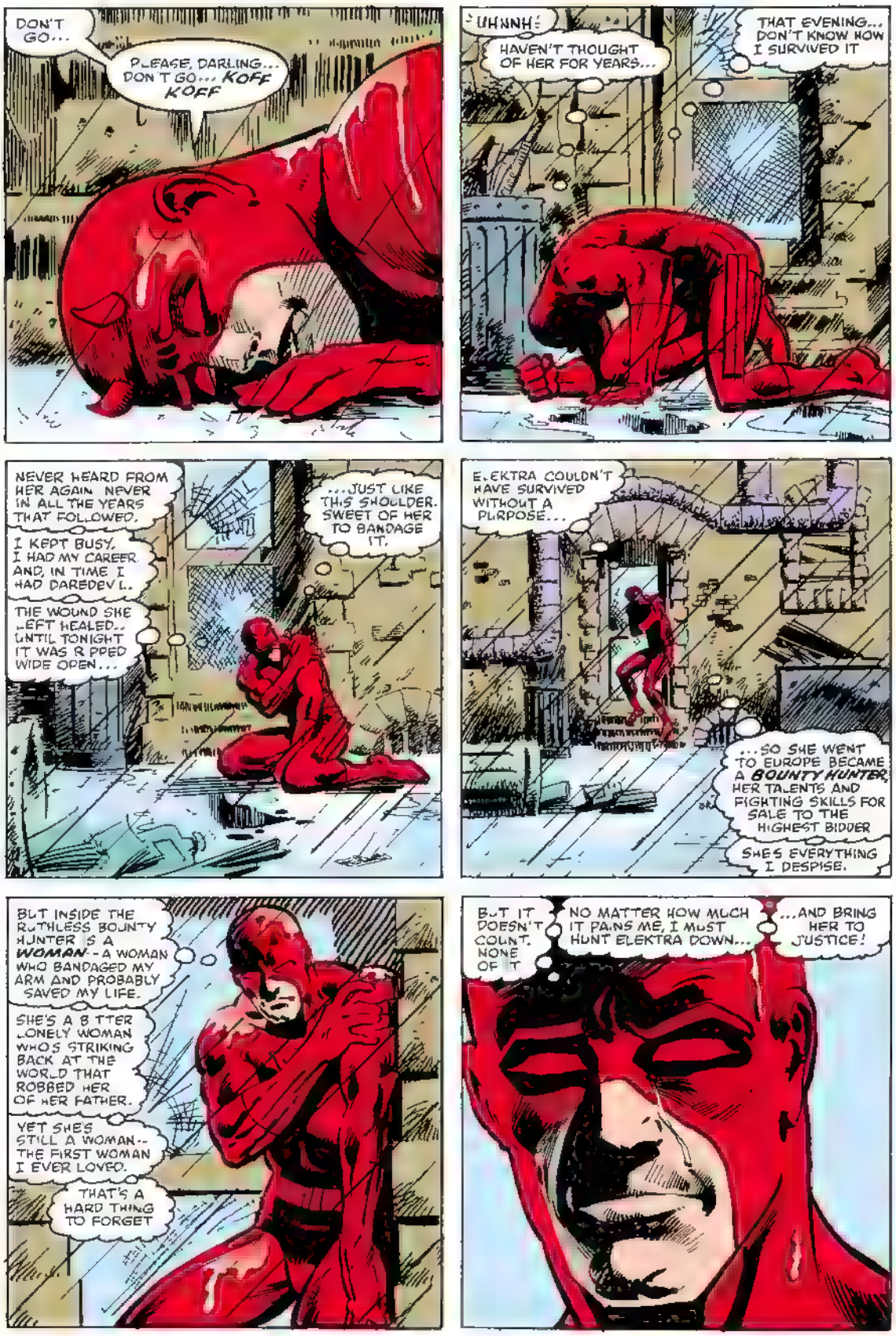

IN THE SHADOW OF A NEARBY BUILDING...
I MEANT TO GIVE THIS SCARF TO ELEKTRA AS A BIRTHDAY GIFT.
BUT NOW IT'S MY ONLY MEANS OF DISGUISE.

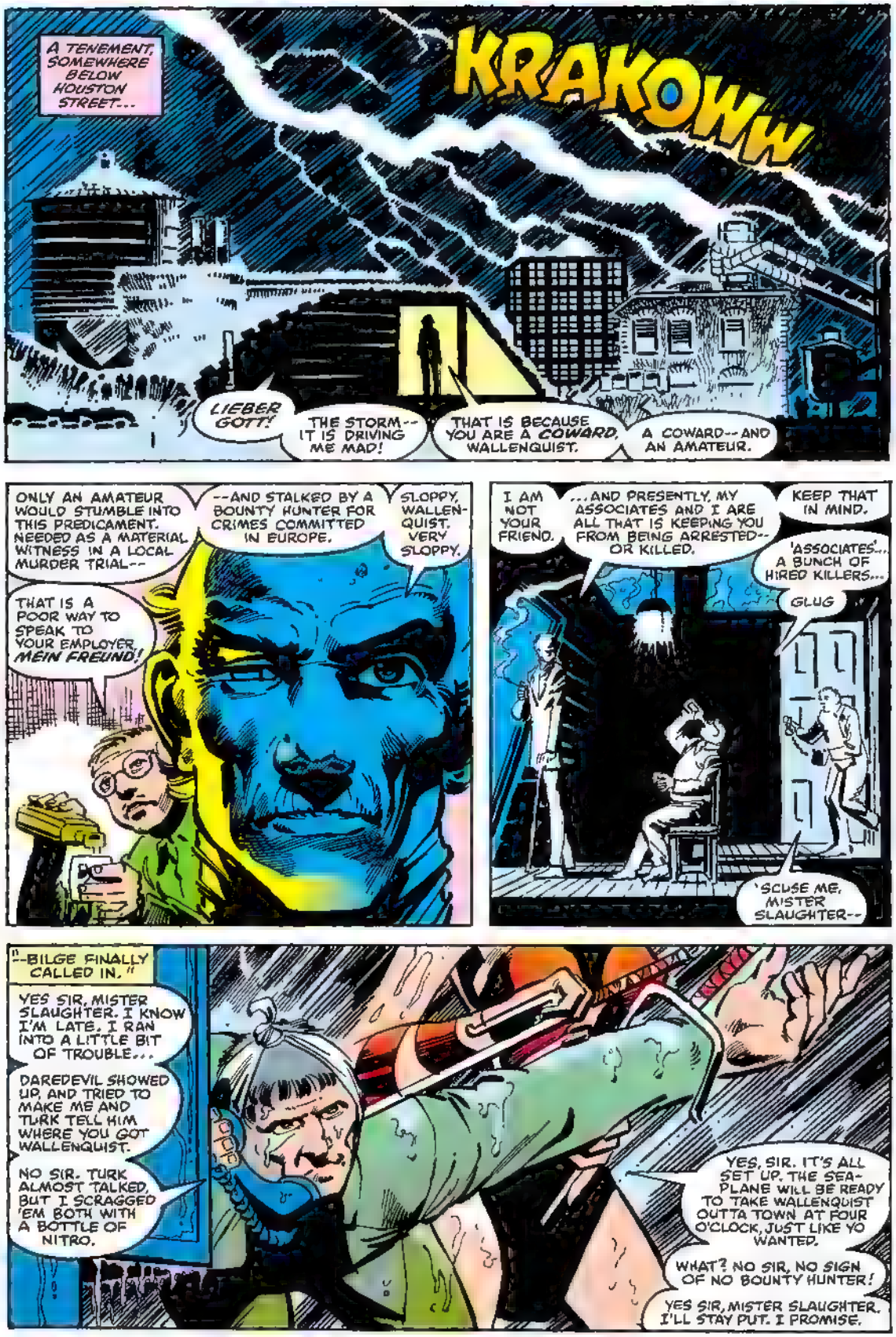

HAVE TO GAIN ALTITUDE-- SCAN THE SITUATION.
NOW I'LL SEE IF ALL THOSE HOURS OF SECRET TRAINING COUNT FOR ANYTHING!


NOT BAD. I'M IN BETTER SHAPE THAN I THOUGHT.
BEFORE I DO ANYTHING, I HAVE TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING ON. I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE--USE MY HYPER SENSES AS NEVER BEFORE!
IF I TRY, I CAN HEAR EVERY WORD THAT'S SPOKEN...
YOU ARE SURROUNDED. IT'S HOPELESS, PLEASE... RELEASE THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS DAUGHTER...
JUST LET ONE OF THOSE WORMS SHOW HIMSELF... JUST FOR A SECOND...
GET BENT, PIG!
WE WANT A CAR--AND A PLANE OUTTA TOWN!
CRIPES, THERE MUST BE A THOUSAND COPS OUT THERE! WE'VE HAD IT, MAN!
"SHUT UP. JUST SHUT UP. LET ME THINK... YEAH...WE SNUFF THE CUTIE. THAT'LL SHOW 'EM WE MEAN BUSINESS!"
"MAN, WE CAN'T DO THAT! THEY'LL--"
"SHUT UP. IF I SAY WE KILL HER, WE KILL HER!"
THERE'S NO MORE TIME. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE NOW.
IT'S FIFTEEN FEET TO THE OTHER ROOF. I'VE NEVER JUMPED THAT FAR.
BUT I'VE GOT TO SAVE ELEKTRA.
I'VE GOT TO!
I MISSED!
THAT FLAGPOLE! MY CANE! IF I CAN JUST...
UFF!
POP SAYS...THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE. HE'S NEVER AFRAID. I WON'T BE, EITHER.
COULDA' SWORN I HEARD SOMETHING.
I MAY BE WRONG--
--BUT WE BETTER PLAY IT SAFE. GO UP TO THE ROOF. SEE HOW CARLOS IS DOING.
SURE.
THERE ARE SIX OF THEM...
THREE IN THE ROOM WITH ELEKTRA AND HER FATHER...
ONE ON THE LANDING BELOW...
AND THE TWO HERE. BETTER KEEP THIS QUIET.
HKKK--
WHAT IN...

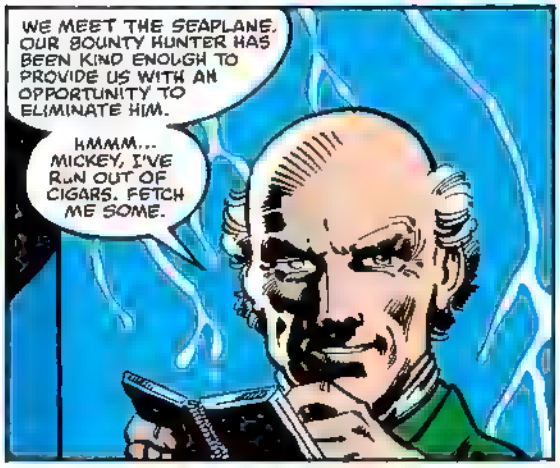

WHILE, ON THE LANDING BELOW...
WHOK
EH? WHAT'S THAT?
BETTER CHECK IT--
OOUUT
BLAMM
A SHOT! THEY'RE UP HERE, MAN! THEY--
SHUT UP! THIS IS CRAZY. THEY WOULDN'T DARE...
YOU CHECK IT OUT, LOUIE AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF THESE TWO.
THREE LEFT. ONE HAS A GUN ON ELEKTRA.
I'LL HAVE TO COUNT ON HER SKILL, AS WELL AS MY OWN.
THOK
HIT 'EM LOW, OLIVE OIL!
THEY BOTH STRIKE SWIFTLY, EFFICIENTLY.
BUT THEN--
I MISCALCULATED. HE'S FALLING BACKWARD...
...AND THROUGH THE WINDOW!
THEY'RE KILLING THE HOSTAGES!
THOSE SLIMY... ALL I NEED IS A CLEAR SHOT, THAT'S ALL...
"...JUST A CLEAR SHOT AT ONE OF THEM, JUST FOR A SECOND..."
"WAIT... WHAT'S THAT? I CAN SEE SOMETHING..."
OH, NO...
STAY DOWN, SIR!
STAY DOWN!
BUT I...
URRGH!
FUP
FUP
FUP


POPPA!
ELEKTRA... DON'T..
LET GO OF ME! POPPA! POPPA!
.T'S TOO LATE. HIS HEART...IT'S STOPPED.
ELEKTRA, I.M.SORRY
NO. POPPA
SHE DOESN'T CRY. NOT THEN.
NOT LATER.
SHE NEVER CRIES.
FINALLY...
I GOT YOUR MESSAGE, ELEKTRA. I RAN R GHT OVER WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I AM LEAVING, MATT I AM RETURN ING TO EUROPE.
LEAVING? BUT--
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY. I CAN- NOT CONTINJE TO STUDY LAWS IN WHICH I NO LONGER BEL.EVE.
BUT WE CAN STILL...
WITHOUT THE DREAM?
YOU, TO BE YOUR COUNTRY'S FINEST LAWYER, AND I-- I WANTED TO CHANGE THE WORLD, MATT. I USED TO LOVE THE WORLD..
NOW I CAN'T LET IT TOUCH ME. EVER AGAIN
YOU RE A PART OF THAT WORLD. AND YOU LOVE IT. YOU LET IT HURT YOU AND YOU LOVE IT ALL THE MORE.
I M NOT THAT STRONG.
I LOVE YOU. WE...
IT'S TOO LATE, MATT. I M SORRY...
ELEKTRA... DON T. ..
PLEASE... DON'T GO...

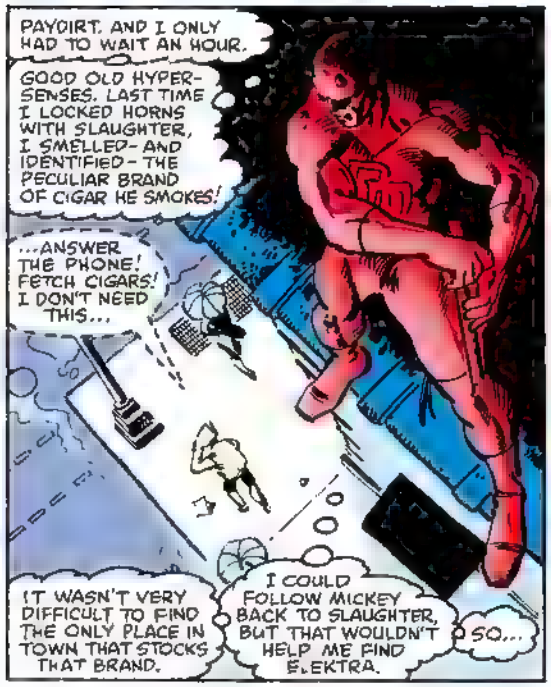

DON'T GO...
PLEASE, DARLING... DON'T GO... KOFF KOFF
UHNNH!
HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF HER FOR YEARS...
THAT EVENING... DON'T KNOW HOW I SURVIVED IT
NEVER HEARD FROM HER AGAIN. NEVER IN ALL THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED.
I KEPT BUSY. I HAD MY CAREER AND, IN TIME, I HAD DAREDEVIL.
THE WOUND SHE LEFT HEALED.. UNTIL TONIGHT IT WAS RIPPED WIDE OPEN...
...JUST LIKE THIS SHOULDER. SWEET OF HER TO BANDAGE IT.
ELEKTRA COULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT A PURPOSE...
...SO SHE WENT TO EUROPE BECAME A BOUNTY HUNTER, HER TALENTS AND FIGHTING SKILLS FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER
SHE'S EVERYTHING I DESPISE.
BUT INSIDE THE RUTHLESS BOUNTY HUNTER IS A WOMAN -- A WOMAN WHO BANDAGED MY ARM AND PROBABLY SAVED MY LIFE.
SHE'S A BITTER LONELY WOMAN WHO'S STRIKING BACK AT THE WORLD THAT ROBBED HER OF HER FATHER.
YET SHE'S STILL A WOMAN -- THE FIRST WOMAN I EVER LOVED.
THAT'S A HARD THING TO FORGET
BUT IT DOESN'T COUNT. NONE OF IT
NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT PAINS ME, I MUST HUNT ELEKTRA DOWN...
...AND BRING HER TO JUSTICE!


A TENEMENT, SOMEWHERE BELOW HOUSTON STREET...
KRAKOWW
LIEBER GOTT!
THE STORM-- IT IS DRIVING ME MAD!
THAT IS BECAUSE YOU ARE A COWARD, WALLENQUIST.
A COWARD-- AND AN AMATEUR.
ONLY AN AMATEUR WOULD STUMBLE INTO THIS PREDICAMENT. NEEDED AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN A LOCAL MURDER TRIAL--
--AND STALKED BY A BOUNTY HUNTER FOR CRIMES COMMITTED IN EUROPE.
SLOPPY, WALLENQUIST. VERY SLOPPY.
THAT IS A POOR WAY TO SPEAK TO YOUR EMPLOYER, MEIN FREUND!
I AM NOT YOUR FRIEND.
...AND PRESENTLY, MY ASSOCIATES AND I ARE ALL THAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM BEING ARRESTED-- OR KILLED.
KEEP THAT IN MIND.
'ASSOCIATES'... A BUNCH OF HIRED KILLERS...
GLUG
'SCUSE ME, MISTER SLAUGHTER--
"--BILGE FINALLY CALLED IN."
YES SIR, MISTER SLAUGHTER. I KNOW I'M LATE. I RAN INTO A LITTLE BIT OF TROUBLE...
DAREDEVIL SHOWED UP, AND TRIED TO MAKE ME AND TURK TELL HIM WHERE YOU GOT WALLENQUIST.
NO SIR. TURK ALMOST TALKED, BUT I SCRAGGED 'EM BOTH WITH A BOTTLE OF NITRO.
YES, SIR. IT'S ALL SET UP. THE SEA-PLANE WILL BE READY TO TAKE WALLENQUIST OUTTA TOWN AT FOUR O'CLOCK, JUST LIKE YO WANTED.
WHAT? NO SIR, NO SIGN OF NO BOUNTY HUNTER!
YES SIR, MISTER SLAUGHTER. I'LL STAY PUT. I PROMISE.

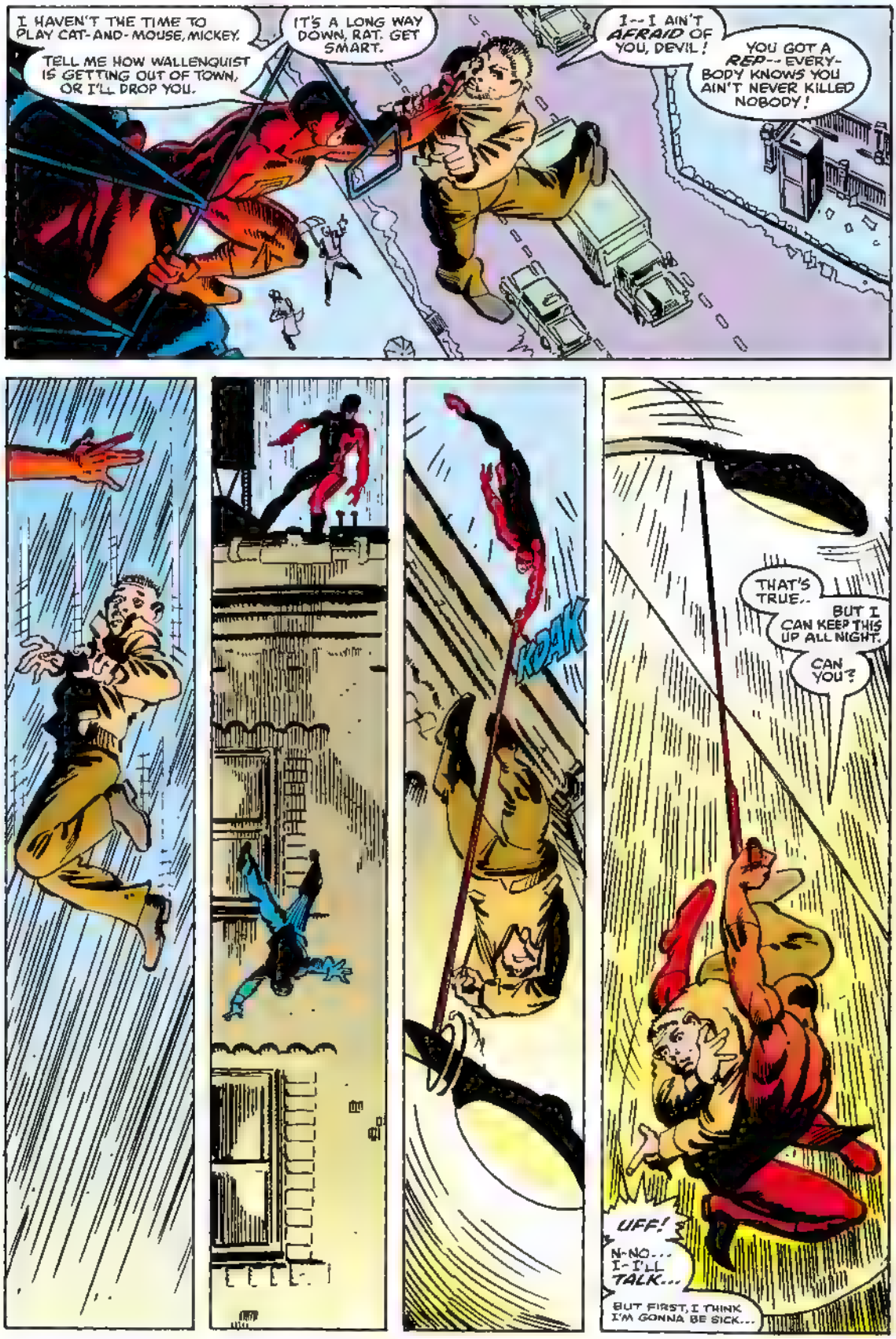
IT'S A TRAP. BILGE SAID TO MEET THE SEA-PLANE AT FOUR O'CLOCK--AN HOUR LATER THAN THE ARRANGED TIME.
THAT WAS OUR SIGNAL -- IT MEANS THE BOUNTY HUNTER HAS HIM.
ANGST UND UNHEIL! WHAT--WHAT CAN WE DO?

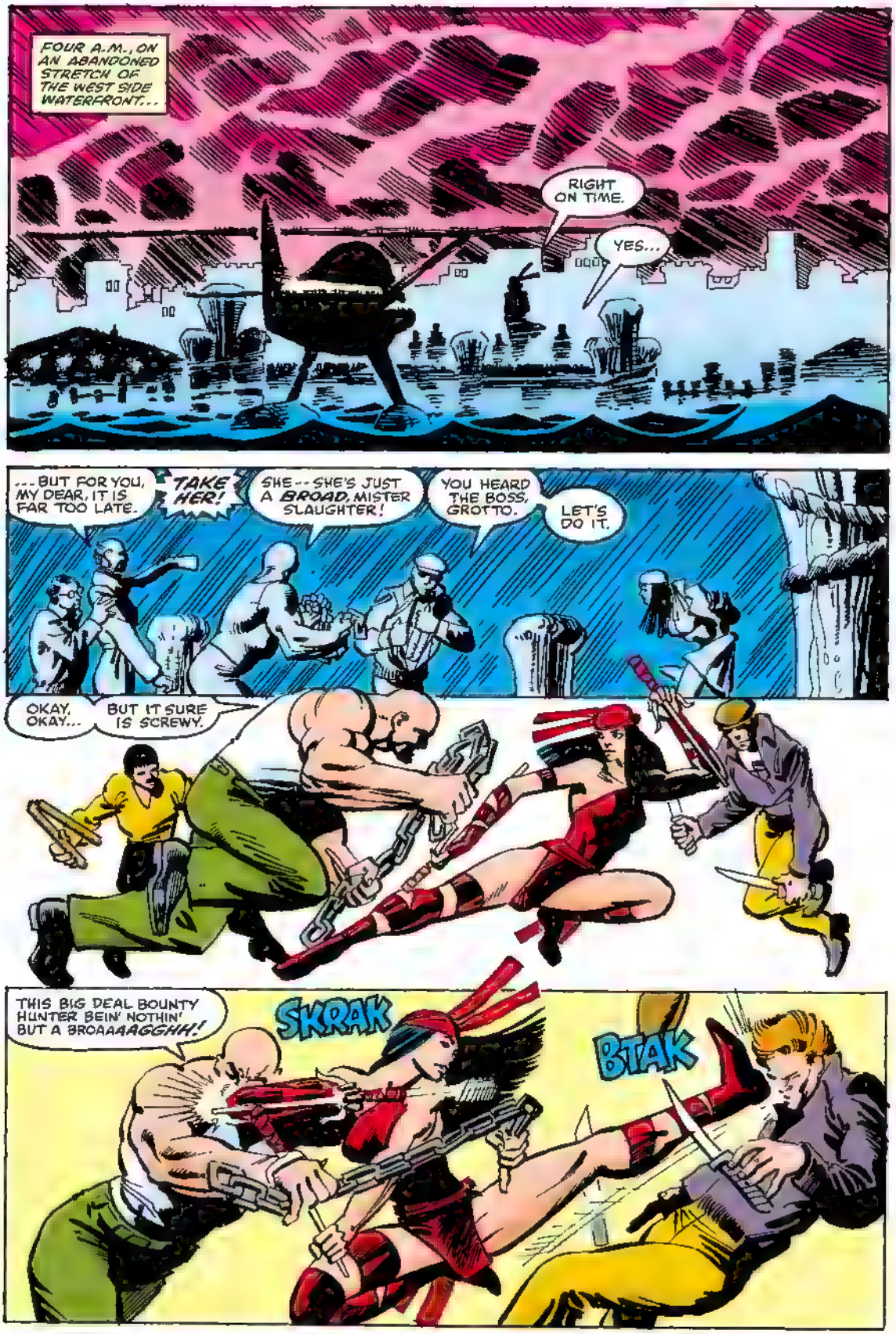

WE MEET THE SEAPLANE. OUR BOUNTY HUNTER HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO PROVIDE US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE HIM.
HMMM... MICKEY, I'VE RUN OUT OF CIGARS. FETCH ME SOME.

SHORTLY...
VILLAGE CIGARS
CIGARS
PIPES
CIGARETTES
"MICKEY, I'VE RUN OUT OF CIGARS. FETCH ME SOME."
CRIMENY, I'M A QUALIFIED HIT MAN! GOT FOUR KILLS TO MY CREDIT! AND WHAT DOES SLAUGHTER HAVE ME DO?...


PAYDIRT. AND I ONLY HAD TO WAIT AN HOUR.
GOOD OLD HYPER-SENSES. LAST TIME I LOCKED HORNS WITH SLAUGHTER, I SMELLED- AND IDENTIFIED- THE PECULIAR BRAND OF CIGAR HE SMOKES!
...ANSWER THE PHONE! FETCH CIGARS! I DON'T NEED THIS...
IT WASN'T VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND THE ONLY PLACE IN TOWN THAT STOCKS THAT BRAND.
I COULD FOLLOW MICKEY BACK TO SLAUGHTER, BUT THAT WOULDN'T HELP ME FIND ELEKTRA.
SO...

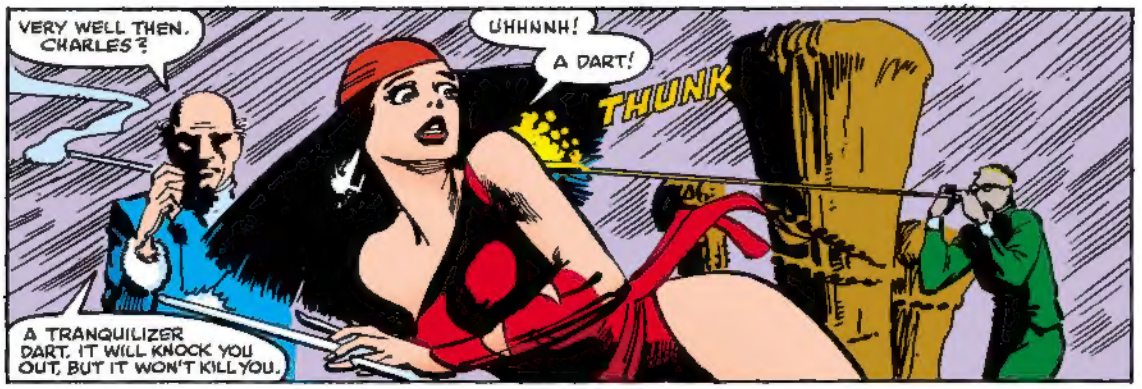
EVENING, MICKEY!
GAAAA!
STILL WASHING THE OLD MAN'S SOCKS?


I HAVEN'T THE TIME TO PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE, MICKEY.
TELL ME HOW WALLENQUIST IS GETTING OUT OF TOWN, OR I'LL DROP YOU.
IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN, RAT. GET SMART.
I--I AIN'T AFRAID OF YOU, DEVIL!
YOU GOT A REP--EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU AIN'T NEVER KILLED NOBODY!
KRAK
THAT'S TRUE..
BUT I CAN KEEP THIS UP ALL NIGHT.
CAN YOU?
UFF!
N-NO... I-I'LL TALK...
BUT FIRST, I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK...


FOUR A.M., ON AN ABANDONED STRETCH OF THE WEST SIDE WATERFRONT...
RIGHT ON TIME.
YES...
...BUT FOR YOU, MY DEAR, IT IS FAR TOO LATE.
TAKE HER!
SHE--SHE'S JUST A BROAD, MISTER SLAUGHTER!
YOU HEARD THE BOSS, GROTTO.
LET'S DO IT.
OKAY, OKAY...
BUT IT SURE IS SCREWY.
THIS BIG DEAL BOUNTY HUNTER BEIN' NOTHIN' BUT A BROAAAAGGHH!
SKRAK
BTAK

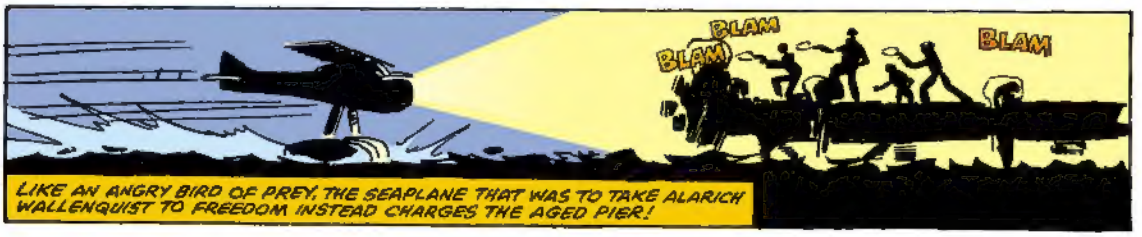
CHOK
KTANNGG-G
KLUGG
SHRKRAKK
NEXT?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DIE. THAT WOULD BE A WASTE OF MY AMMUNITION-- AND OF YOUR REMARKABLE TALENTS.
COME TO WORK FOR ME. MY BUSINESS COULD MAKE GOOD USE OF YOU.
I SERVE NO CAUSE-- NO LAW-- AND NO MAN.

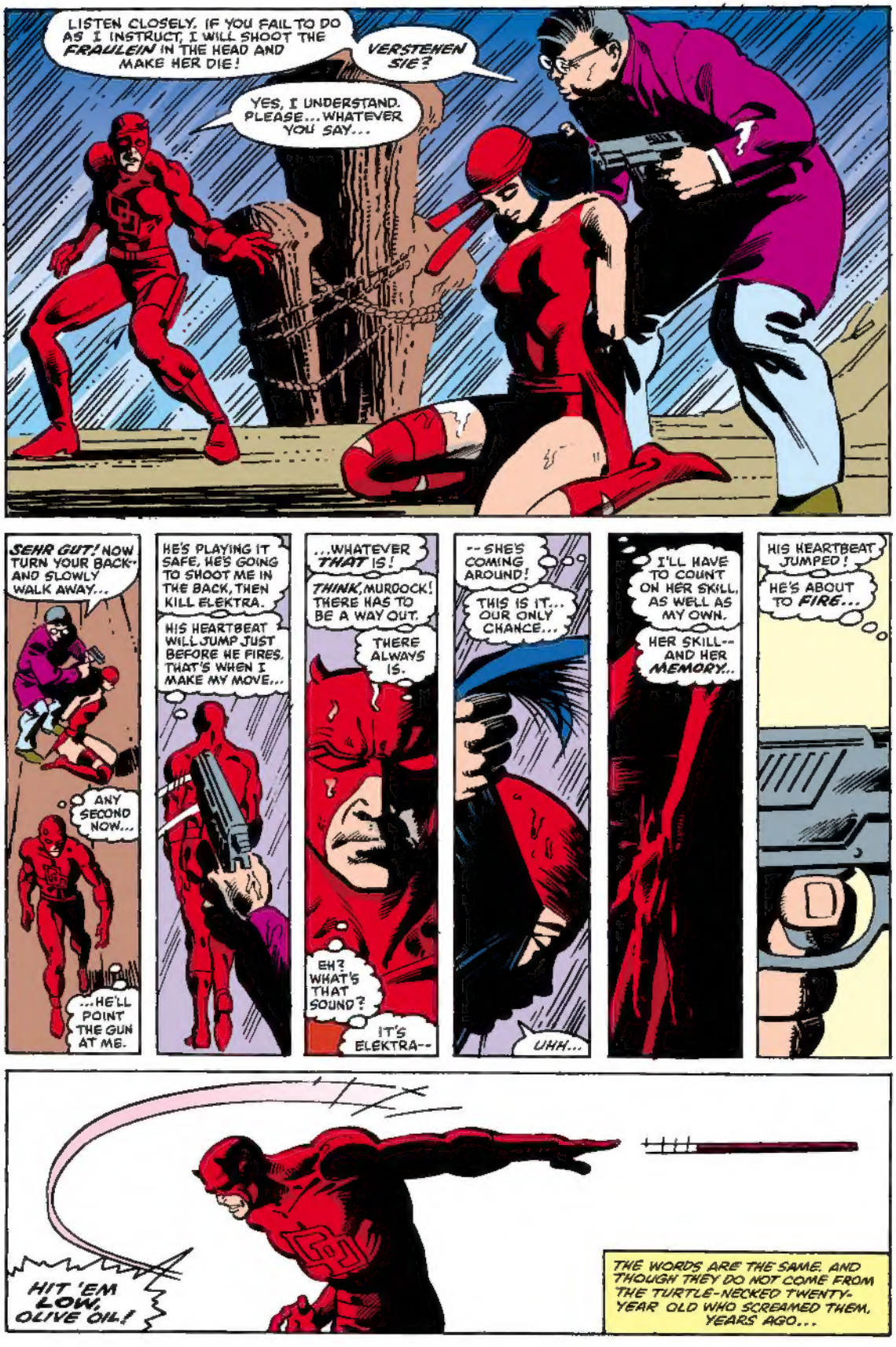

VERY WELL THEN, CHARLES?
UHHNNH!
A DART!
THUNK
A TRANQUILIZER DART. IT WILL KNOCK YOU OUT, BUT IT WON'T KILL YOU.

WE WILL.
TIE HER UP, AND FIND SOMETHING TO WEIGH HER DOWN. THEN THROW HER INTO THE RIVER.
HMMM... IN THE OLD DAYS WE WOULD'VE TAKEN THE CARE TO MAKE HER A PAIR OF CEMENT OVERSHOES.
WE HAD SO MUCH MORE STYLE IN THE OLD DAYS...

EH?
HEADLIGHTS GLARE. A ROTARY ENGINE COUGHS, THEN ROARS.


BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
LIKE AN ANGRY BIRD OF PREY, THE SEAPLANE THAT WAS TO TAKE ALARICH WALLENQUIST TO FREEDOM INSTEAD CHARGES THE AGED PIER!

ROTTED TIMBERS LURCH, RAMMED BY A THOUSAND POUNDS OF TEMPERED STEEL...
A MADLY SPINNING PROPELLER BITES DEEPLY INTO SOFT, MOIST PLANKS, THEN IT DIES AS ITS ENGINE BURSTS INTO FLAME...
...AND FROM THAT FLAME LEAPS--
DAREDEVIL? HERE?
CHAK
DON'T WANDER OFF ALONE, SLAUGHTER. I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU--
OOF!
--JUST AS SOON AS I THROW OUT THE GARBAGE!
OH, NO...
DO NOT MOVE, DAREDEVIL!
STAY PRECISELY WHERE YOU ARE!


LISTEN CLOSELY. IF YOU FAIL TO DO AS I INSTRUCT, I WILL SHOOT THE FRAULEIN IN THE HEAD AND MAKE HER DIE!
VERSTEHEN SIE?
YES, I UNDERSTAND. PLEASE... WHATEVER YOU SAY...
SEHR GUT! NOW TURN YOUR BACK AND SLOWLY WALK AWAY...
ANY SECOND NOW...
...HE'LL POINT THE GUN AT ME.
HE'S PLAYING IT SAFE, HE'S GOING TO SHOOT ME IN THE BACK, THEN KILL ELEKTRA.
HIS HEARTBEAT WILL JUMP JUST BEFORE HE FIRES. THAT'S WHEN I MAKE MY MOVE...
...WHATEVER THAT IS!
THINK, MURDOCK! THERE HAS TO BE A WAY OUT.
THERE ALWAYS IS.
EH? WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
IT'S ELEKTRA--
-- SHE'S COMING AROUND!
THIS IS IT... OUR ONLY CHANCE...
UHH...
I'LL HAVE TO COUNT ON HER SKILL, AS WELL AS MY OWN.
HER SKILL-- AND HER MEMORY..
HIS HEARTBEAT JUMPED!
HE'S ABOUT TO FIRE...
HIT 'EM LOW, OLIVE OIL!
THE WORDS ARE THE SAME, AND THOUGH THEY DO NOT COME FROM THE TURTLE-NECKED TWENTY-YEAR OLD WHO SCREAMED THEM, YEARS AGO...

...ELEKTRA UNDERSTANDS--AND ACTS.
BLAM
THOK
SPAK
SPAK
MATT...
MATT, IT IS YOU...
ECHOING BENEATH THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY, APPROACHING POLICE SIRENS WAIL, HOPELESSLY LATE...
...A DISTANT FOGHORN GIVES OUT A GREAT, LONG MOAN...
...FOR THE FIRST TIME, ELEKTRA CRIES.